

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

December 20, 2005

AMENDMENT TO ITEM NO. 44

In December 2004, the Board unanimously approved a motion to provide services for families in the Skid Row area by declaring zero tolerance for families living there. As directed, from 2004 to 2005, the County Departments of Public Social Services, Mental Health, Children and Family Services, and LAHSA implemented numerous strategies to respond to families. These strategies included the Skid Row Outreach Team, the Homeless Families Benefit Team, rental subsidies and other homeless program services. Although these actions yielded a positive impact, there continued to be a gap in the delivery of services to homeless families and individuals on Skid Row whose circumstances necessitate additional actions by the County.

In October 2005, to address the circumstance of a large majority of served families having declined referrals for County benefits and services, the Board unanimously approved a motion to strengthen the collaboration between County Departments in order to enhance Skid Row outreach efforts. However, while this collaboration is in the process of being strengthened, children continue to live on Skid Row, in an environment that is unsafe and unstable. As such, the focus and first priority of the Skid Row Outreach Team must be child safety.

MOTION

Molina	_____
Burke	_____
Yaroslavsky	_____
Knabe	_____
Antonovich	_____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

(1) Designate the Department of Children and Family Services and the Department of Public Social Services as the lead agencies responsible for Skid Row outreach with the goals of assuring child safety, providing ongoing case management and enforcing the Board's zero tolerance policy for families of Skid Row; and

(2) Direct DCFS and DPSS to report back in 30 days on its expansion of contracted services available for children and families on Skid Row and its work with the County Departments of Mental Health, Health Services, LAHSA, First 5 LA (Los Angeles), and Public Counsel along with other advocates in Skid Row, to assure that services to Skid Row families are adequately coordinated; and

(3) Direct DCFS and DPSS along with the coordination of DMH, DHS and other agencies to conduct a 6-month assessment of the new outreach protocols to ensure the well-being of our homeless families in Skid Row. Additionally the Departments should provide a monthly report on their outreach activities to the Board for the next 6 months; and

(4) Direct the Department of Children and Family Services, the Chief Administrative Office and the Office of County Counsel to recommend changes to State law that will give DCFS the authority to intervene when homeless families do not wish to voluntarily assure their children's safety and well-being.

LO/aa